

**Phi Beta Kappa, Zeta of Texas Chapter  
Citation for Honorary Membership**

**Dr. William H. Bellinger, Jr.  
December, 2015**

Following his 1972 graduation from Furman University (where he later received the school's distinguished alumni award), Dr. Bellinger, Baylor's W. Marshall and Lulie Craig Chair in Bible and Professor of Religion, received his M.Div. degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (1975) and his Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge (1981).

After teaching at Bethel Theological Seminary and then Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Bellinger began his 30-plus year career at Baylor University, becoming Director of Graduate Studies, and then Chair of the Department of Religion in 2006. While at Baylor, he has been named Outstanding Tenured Professor of the College of Arts and Sciences (1996), Outstanding Professor in the Category of Research (2000), and Cornelia Marschall Smith Professor of the Year (2013). In 2008 he received the Richard Furman Baptist Heritage Award and the John G. Gammie Distinguished Scholar Award from the Southwest Commission of Religious Studies.

Dr. Bellinger has established himself as a renowned expert in the Hebrew Bible through his numerous articles, chapters, and books. He researches Hebrew Bible worship texts and Old Testament (which he affectionately refers to as the "older testament") Biblical theology and has produced extensive scholarship on the Psalter and works on Hosea, Isaiah, Leviticus, Numbers and other Old Testament books. His wide-ranging acumen in Hebrew Bible culminated last year in a magisterial commentary on the Psalms, published with Cambridge University Press. Along with his scholarly contributions to the field, Dr. Bellinger has served judiciously on numerous committees in the Society of Biblical Literature both regionally and nationally.

In the Department of Religion, and broadly across Baylor's campus, Dr. Bellinger is known for his attentive patience, keen leadership, generous collaboration, impressive learnedness, and good humor. Those who work closely with Dr. Bellinger come to expect in their dealings with him warmth, wisdom, and the kind of humble humanity often hard-pressed in university academic life. He is the kind of scholar-gentleman about whom people often say, "They don't make them like that anymore." Beyond academic life, Dr. Bellinger is a committed and tireless churchman and family man, devoted to God, church, and family in ways we hope for all of our faculty and students. He is also, it should be said, a steadfast Yankees fan, an aspect of his life that the rest of his accomplished character warrants forgiving.